

Table 4. Access to Sanitation by Country, 1970 to 2002

Description

Adequate sanitation is also a fundamental requirement for basic human well-being, and improving access is one of the MDGs. Data are given here for the percent of urban, rural, and total populations, by country, with access to sanitation services for 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1994, 2000, and 2002—the most recent year for which data are available. The World Health Organization (WHO) collected these data over various periods. Most of the data presented were drawn from responses by national governments to WHO questionnaires. Participants in data collection include the JMP, the United Nations Children’s Fund, and the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council, which has continued sector monitoring and aims to support and strengthen the monitoring efforts of individual countries. Countries used their own definitions of “rural” and “urban.”

For the 2000 and 2002 WHO assessments, new definitions were provided of “improved” sanitation with allowance for acceptable local technologies. The forty largest countries in the developing world account for 90 percent of population. As a result, WHO spent extra effort to collect comprehensive data for these countries. The excreta disposal system was considered adequate if it was private or shared (but not public) and if it hygienically separated human excreta from human contact. The following technologies were included in the 2000 assessment as representing improved sanitation: connection to a public sewer; connection to septic system; pour-flush latrine; simple pit latrine; ventilated improved pit latrine.

In comparison, unimproved sanitation facilities refer to: public or shared latrine; open pit latrine; bucket latrine.

Limitations

As is the case with drinking water data, definitions for access to sanitation vary from country to country, and from year to year within the same country. Countries generally regard sanitation facilities that break the fecal-oral transmission route as adequate. In urban areas, adequate sanitation may be provided by connections to public sewers or by household systems such as pit privies, flush latrines, septic tanks, and communal toilets. In rural areas, pit privies, pour-flush latrines, septic tanks, and communal toilets are considered adequate. Direct comparisons between countries and across time within the same country are difficult and are additionally complicated by the fact that these data hide disparities between regions and socioeconomic classes.

The 2000 and 2002 WHO Assessments attempt to shift from gathering information from water providers only to include consumer-based information. The current approach uses household surveys in an effort to assess the actual use of facilities. Access to sanitation services, as reported by WHO, does not imply that the level of service is “adequate” or “safe.” The assessment questionnaire did not include any methodology for discounting coverage figures to allow for intermittence or poor quality of the service provided. More details of the methods used, and their limitations, can be found at http://www.who.int/docstore/water_sanitation_health/Globassessment/GlobalTOC.htm.

Fraction of Population with Access to Sanitation																								
Region and Country	URBAN								RURAL								TOTAL							
	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1994	2000	2002	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1994	2000	2002	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1994	2000	2002
AFRICA	47	75	57	75																				
Algeria	13	100		80			90	99	6	50		40			47	82	9	67		57			73	92
Angola			40	29	25	34	70	56			15	16	20	8	30	16			20	19	21	16	44	30

Benin	83		48	58	60	54	46	58	1		4	20	35	6	6	12	14		16	33	45	20	23	32
Botswana				93	100			57				28	85			25				40	89			41
Burkina Faso	49	47	38	44		42	88	45			5	6		11	16	5	4	4	7	9		18	29	12
Burundi	96		40	84	64	60	79	47			35	56	16	50		35			35	58	18	51		36
Cameroon				100			99	63				1			85	33				43			92	48
Cape Verde			34	32		40	95	61			10	9		10	32	19			11	10		24	71	42
Central African Republic	64	100			45		43	47	96	100			46		23	12	72	100			46	46	31	27
Chad	7	9				73	81	30		1				7	13	0	1	1				21	29	8
Comoros							98	38							98	15							98	23
Congo	8	10					14	14	6	9						2	6	9						9
Congo, Democratic Republic	5	65			46	23	53	43	5	6		9	11	4	6	23	5	22			21	9	20	29
Cote D'Ivoire	23				81	59		61				100	51			23	5				92	54		40
Djibouti			43	78		77	99	55			20	17		100	50	27			39	64		90	91	50
Egypt					80	20	98	84			10		26	5	91	56					50	11	94	68
Equatorial Guinea					54	61	60	60					24	48	46	46					33	54	53	53
Eritrea							66	34							1	3							13	9
Ethiopia	67	56		96			58	19	8	8		96			6	4	14	14					15	6
Gabon							25	37							4	30							21	36
Gambia					100	83	41	72					27	23	35	46					44	37	37	53
Ghana	92	95	47	51	63	53	62	74	40	40	17	16	60	36	64	46	55	56	26	30	61	42	63	58
Guinea	70		54				94	25	2		1		0		41	6	13		11			70	58	13
Guinea-Bissau			21	29		32	88	57			13	18		17	34	23			15	21		20	47	34
Kenya	85	98	89			69	96	56	45	48	19			81	81	43	50	55	30			77	86	48
Lesotho	44	51	13	22		1	93	61	10	12	14	14		7	96	32	11	13	14	15		6	92	37
Liberia	100			6		38		49	9			2		2		7	19					18		26
Libya	100	100	100				97	97	54	69	72				30	96	67	79	88				97	97
Madagascar	88		9	55		50	70	49		9				3	70	27						15	42	33
Malawi			100			70	96	66			81			51	98	42			83			53	77	46
Mali	63		79	90	81	58	93	59				3	10	21	100	38	8			19	27	31	69	45
Mauritania	100		5	8			44	64							19	9	7						33	42
Mauritius	51	63	100	100	100	100	100	100	99	100	90	86	100	100	99	99	77	82	94	92	100	100	99	99
Morocco	75			62	100	69	100	83	4			16		18	42	31	29					40	75	61
Mozambique				53		70	69	51				12		70	26	14				20			43	27
Namibia					24		96	66					11		17	14					15		41	30
Niger	10	30	36		71	71	79	43		1	3		4	4	5	4	1	3	7		17	15	20	12
Nigeria					80	61	85	48					5	11	21	45	30				35	36	63	38
Reunion																								
Rwanda	83	87	60	77	88		12	56	52	56	50	55	17		8	38	53	57	51	56	21		8	41
Sao Tome and Principe								32					15				20			15				24

Senegal			100	87	57	83	94	70			2		38	40	48	34			36		46	58	70	52
Seychelles																100								
Sierra Leone			31	60	55	17	23	53			6	10	31	8	31	30			12	24	39	11	28	39
Somalia		77		44				47			35	5			14			47		18				25
South Africa						79	99	86					12	73	44							46	86	67
Sudan	100	100	73	73		79	87	50	4	10			4	48	24	16	22					22	62	34
Swaziland		99		100		36		78		25		25	37		44		36		45		36			52
Tanzania		88		93			98	54		14		58		86	41		17	66					90	46
Togo	4	36	24	31		57	69	71		12	10	9		13	17	15	1	15	13	14		26	34	34
Tunisia	100		100	84		100		90	34			16		85		62	62			55		96		80
Uganda	84	82		32	32	75	96	53	76	95		30	60	55	72	39	76	94		30	57	57	75	41
Zambia	12	87		76		40	99	68	18	16		34		10	64	32	16	42		55		23	78	45
Zimbabwe					95		99	69				15	22		51	51					43		68	57
NORTH & CENTRAL AMERICA & CARIBBEAN																								
Anguilla																								
Antigua and Barbuda								98								94								95
Aruba																								
Bahamas	100	100	88	100	98		93	100	13	13			2		94	100	66	65	88	100	63		93	100
Barbados	100	100		100	100		100	99	100	100			100		100	100	100	100			100		100	99
Belize			62	87	76	23	59	71			75	45	22	87	21	25			69	66	50	57	42	47
British Virgin Islands					100			100						100		100								100
Canada							100	100								99	99						100	100
Cayman Islands			94	96								94					96							
Costa Rica	66	94	99	99		85	98	89	43	93	84	89		99	95	97	52	93	91	95		92	96	92
Cuba	57	100			100	71	96	99					68	51	91	95					92	66	95	98
Dominican Republic	63	74	25	41	95	76	75	67	54	16	4	10	75	83	64	43	58	42	15	23	87	78	71	57
Dominica								86								75								83
El Salvador	66	71	48	82	85	78	88	78	18	17	26	43	38	59	78	40	37	39	35	58	59	68	83	63
Grenada							96	96							97	97							97	97
Guadeloupe							61								61								61	
Guatemala			45	41	72		98	72	11	16	20	12	52		76	52		30	24	60		85	61	
Haiti			42	42	44	42	50	52	43	1	10	13	17	16	16	23		19	21	25	24	28	34	
Honduras	64	53	49	24	89	81	94	89	9	13	26	34	42	53	57	52	24	26	35	30	63	65	77	68
Jamaica	100	100	12	92			98	90	92	91	2	90			66	68	94	94	7	91			84	80
Martinique																								
Mexico			77	77	85	81	87	90	13	14	12	13		26	32	39			55	58		66	73	77
Montserrat								96								96								96

Netherlands Antilles																									
Nicaragua			34	35		34	96	78	8	24		16		27	68	51				27		31	84	66	
Panama	87	78	83	99			87	89	69	76	59	61			94	51	78	77	71	81		86	99	72	
Puerto Rico																									
St Kitts								96								96								96	
St Lucia								89								89								89	
St Vincent																96									
Trinidad/Tobago					100			100					92			100					97		88	100	
Turks/Caicos Islands	51	83	96	100				98	96	97	88	95				94	81	92	93	98				96	
United States of America						100	100								100	100							100	100	
United States Virgin Islands																									
SOUTH AMERICA																									
Argentina	87	100	80	75			89		79	83	35	35			48		85	97		69			85		
Bolivia	25		37	33	38	58	82	58	4	9	4	10	14	16	38	23	12		18	21	26	41	66	45	
Brazil	85			86	84	55	85	83	24		1	1	32	3	40	35	58			63	71	44	77	75	
Chile	33	36	100	100		82	98	96	10	11	10	4			93	64	29	32	83	84			97	92	
Colombia	75	73	93	96	84	76	97	96	8	13	4	13	18	33	51	54	47	48	61		64	63	85	86	
Ecuador			73	98	56	87	70	80		7	17	29	38	34	37	59			43	65	48	64	59	72	
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)																									
French Guiana							85								57									79	
Guyana	95	99	73	100	97		97	86	92	94	80	79	81		81	60	93	96	78	86	86		87	70	
Paraguay	16	28	95	89	31		95	94			80	83	60		95	58	6	10	86	85	46		95	78	
Peru	52		57	67	76	62	90	72	16		0	12	20	10	40	33	36		36	49	59	44	76	62	
Suriname			100	78			100	99			79	48			34	76			88	62			83	93	
Uruguay	97	97	59	59			96	95	13	17	6	59			89	85	82	83	51	59			95	94	
Venezuela			60	57		64	86	71	45		12	5	72	30	69	48			52	50			58	74	68
ASIA																									
Afghanistan	69	63		5	13	38	25	16	16	15				1	8	5	21	21				8	12	8	
Armenia								96								61								84	
Azerbaijan								73								36								55	
Bahrain				100	100			100				100	0							100					
Bangladesh	87	40	21	24	40	77	82	75			1	3	4	30	44	39	6	5	3	5	10	35	53	48	
Bhutan					80	66	65	65						3	18	70	70				7	41	69	70	
Brunei Darus																									
Cambodia			100				58	53			76				10	8							18	16	
China					100	58	68	69					81	7	24	29					86	21	38	44	
Cyprus	100	94		100	96		100	100	92	95		100	100		100	100	95	95		100	98		100	100	

East Timor							65								30									33
Gaza Strip																								
Georgia							96								69									83
Hong Kong					90							50									88			
India	85	87	27	31	44	70	73	58	1	2	1	2	3	14	14	18	18	20	7	9	14	29	31	30
Indonesia	50	60	29	33	79	73	87	71	4	5	21	38	30	40	52	38	12	15	23	37	44	51	66	52
Iran	100	100	96		100	89	86	86	48	59	43		35	37	74	78	70	78	69		72	67	81	84
Iraq	82	75		100	96		93	95		1		11			31	48	47	47		74		36	79	80
Israel								100																
Japan								100								100								100
Jordan			94	92	100		100	94			34		100		98	85			70		100	95	99	93
Kazakhstan							100	87							98	52							99	72
Korea DPR							99	58							100	60							99	59
Korea Rep	59	80	100	100	67		76			50	100	100	12		4		25	64	100	100	52		63	
Kuwait			100	100							100								100					
Kyrgyzstan							100	75							100	51							100	60
Laos		10	13		30	70	84	61		2	4		8	13	34	14		3	5		12	24	46	24
Lebanon						100	100	100						100	92	87						100	99	98
Macau																								
Malaysia	100	100	100	100	94				43	43	55	60	94		41	98	59	60	70	75	94			
Maldives		21	60	100	95	95	100	100			1	2	4	26	58	42		3	13	22		44	56	58
Mongolia					100		46	75					47		2	37					78		30	59
Myanmar (Burma)	45	38	38	33	50	42	65	96					13	40	39	63	35	33	20	24	22	41	46	73
Nepal	14	14	16	17	34	51	75	68			1	1	3	16	20	20	1	1	1		6	20	27	27
Oman	100	100		88			98	97		5		25			61	61		12		31		76	92	89
Pakistan	12	21	42	51	53	53	94	92			2	6	12	19	42	35	3	6	13	19	25	30	61	54
Philippines	90	76	81	83	79		92	81	40	44	67	56	63		71	61	57	56	75	67	70		83	73
Qatar	100	100			100			100	16	100				85			100	83	100					100
Saudi Arabia	67	91	81	100			100	100	11	35	50	33			100		21	47	70	82			100	
Singapore			80	99	99		100	100											80	99			100	100
Sri Lanka	76	68	80	65	68	33	91	98	61	55	63	39	45	58	80	89	64	59	67	44	50	52	83	91
Syria			74			77	98	97						35	81	56			50			56	90	77
Tajikistan								71								47								53
Thailand	65	58	64	78			97	97	8	36	41	46	86		96	100	17	40	45	52			96	99
Turkey			56				98	94							70	62							91	83
Turkmenistan								77								50								62
United Arab Emirates			93					100			22					100			80					100
Uzbekistan							100	73							100	48							100	57
Vietnam	100				23	43	87	84		2	55		10	15	70	26	26				13	21	73	41
Yemen A R			60	83			99	76							31	14							45	30

Yemen Dem			70				99				15				31				35				45	
OCEANIA																								
American Samoa																								
Australia							100	100							100	100							100	100
Cook Islands			100	100	100		100	100			76	99	100		100	100			99				100	100
Fiji	100	100	85		91	100	75	99	87	93	60		65	85	12	98	91	96	70		75	92	43	98
French Polynesia+A32					98		99	99					95		97	97							98	98
Guam								99								98								99
Kiribati					91	100	54	59					49	100	44	22						100	48	39
Marshall Islands					100			93					45			59								82
Micronesia					99	100		61					46	100		14						100		28
Nauru																								
New Caledonia																								
New Zealand																								
Niue					0	100	100	100				100	100	100	100	100						100	100	100
Northern Mariana Islands					100			94					71		92	96								94
Palau					95		100	96					100		100	52							100	83
Papua New Guinea	100	100	96	99	57	82	92	67	5	5	3	35		11	80	41	14	18	15	44		22	82	45
Pitcairn																								
Samoa	100	100	86		100		95	100	80	99	83		92	17	100	100	84	99					99	100
Solomon Islands			80		73		98	98			21		2		18	18					13		34	31
Tokelau						100					41			100		74						100		
Tonga	100	100	97	99	88	100		98	100	100	94	40	78	100		96	100	100	19	52	82	100		97
Tuvalu			100	81		90	100	92			80	73		85	100	83						87	100	88
Vanuatu			95	86			100	78			68	25			100	42			40				100	50
Wallis and Futuna Islands																								
Western Samoa			86	88							83	83							84					
EUROPE																								
Albania								99								81								89
Hungary								100								85								95
Republic of Moldova								86								52								68
Romania								86								10								51
Russian Federation								93								70								87
Serbia and Montenegro								97								77								87
Ukraine								100								97								99

Sources:	UNEP 1989; WRI 1988	UNEP 1989; WRI 1988	UNEP 1989; WRI 1988	UNEP 1989; WRI 1988	UNEP 1993	WHO 1996	WHO 2000	WHO/UNICEF 2004	UNEP 1989; WRI 1988	UNEP 1989; WRI 1988	UNEP 1989; WRI 1988	UNEP 1989; WRI 1988	UNEP 1993	WHO 1996	WHO 2000	WHO/UNICEF 2004	UNEP 1989; WRI 1988	UNEP 1989; WRI 1988	UNEP 1989; WRI 1988	UNEP 1989; WRI 1988	Calculated from UNEP 1993	WHO 1996	WHO 2000	WHO/UNICEF 2004
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